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October 24, 2000

US FDA
Dockets Mgt. Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals:

Docket number 98P-0151/CP1

- Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- Not only do downed animals pose increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be inflicted with BSE (Mad Cow Disease), which is fatal also to humans.
- It is impossible to move downed animals humanely. They are routinely pushed with tractors or dragged with chains – horribly painful processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship to meatpackers.

The trade of downed animals must be stopped, both for the protection of the population who consume meat and to prevent the cruelty routinely perpetrated on these animals.

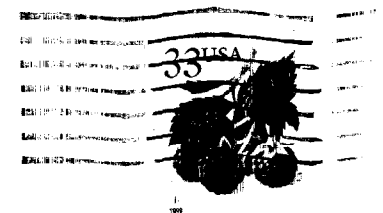
Sincerely,

Mary Jo Brooks

98P-0151

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